

Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council

Newsletter Summer 2010 Issue No 13

www.rufforthwithknapton-pc.gov.uk

News in brief

A welcome to Rob Abbott who has joined the Parish Council as a councillor for Knapton.

The natural burial ground is up and running. A traffic survey has been completed in Rufforth.

Traffic survey and Parish Plan

Did you notice the tubes across Wetherby Rd. and Bradley Lane recently? They were in place for the week 4th—10th May monitoring traffic through the village.

The main issue identified in your Parish Plan was TRAFFIC.....the speed at which it travels and the number of heavy vehicles passing through. Acting on this concern the Parish Council appointed Sky High Traffic Surveys to monitor traffic speed, volume and classification. Below is a summary of their findings from the three sites

Wetherby Rd. adjacent to Yew Tree Close:

Average speed 30.30 mph.

No of vehicle/day.... 5377 (both directions)

Wetherby Rd. adjacent to the Tankard:

Average speed 30mph

No. of vehicles/day 5912(both directions)

Bradley Lane:

Average speed 30.40 mph

No of vehicles/day...862(both directions)`

These average speeds are below that which is considered safe on most roads.

You can see the full report of speed brackets, traffic volume, direction and types of vehicle using the village on a daily basis by contacting Roger Lee 738447 or by visiting our website www.rufforthwithknapton-pc.org.uk

New Facilities at the Institute

The Committee of Rufforth Institute & Social Club report the refurbishment of the Village Institute is almost complete with a new roof, re-decoration and a new fitted kitchen. In addition new chairs and tables are now in place. Full use of the crockery, cutlery and catering equipment are all inclusive. There is ample parking with no charges.

These facilities available to all residents are ideal for meetings, groups, family gatherings and parties. For further details please contact Margaret Lee (01904) 738447 to view

Belinda Hammond (01904) 738340 for bookings

Rufforth Playing Fields Association

Rufforth Playing Fields Association are looking for volunteers to help look after the caravan rally events which provide the major source of income. The main duties are running a booking diary, meeting and greeting ralliers and ensuring safe parking. This could suit someone retired or semi retired and anyone interested should contact Dave Preston 07986 652932. The playing fields have suffered badly in the recent past from dog fouling. Please help to keep the field clean by keeping your dogs under control and clean up after them.

The Tankard Inn

Our traditional local pub with a great atmosphere, hand pulled cask ale, an extensive family beer garden and an excellent friendly service.

What's on at the Tankard?

Wednesday nights. 9.30pm General knowledge quiz and jackpot raffle draw.

Sunday nights. 9.30pm Cardingo, The Bingo game with a difference.

Last Friday of the month. In a bid to find the best Pork Pie in North Yorkshire pork pies from a reputable supplier are being tasted every month throughout 2010. Suppliers will be awarded points for Texture, Taste, Pastry, Filling, and Presentation. These points will be recorded and in December 2010 the winning supplier will be awarded with a certificate from the Tankard Pork Pie Club. Last years winners were Wards of Tadcaster who got full marks in the voting and so will be a tough act to follow. All proceeds are donated to a local charity. Last year the support from loyal customers raised £1500 for Marie Curie, £450 for Rufforth Primary School Library Fund and £300 for Rufforth Pre School.

It's your local and, like the Post Office and the shop needs your support to make it a success. So why not swell the number of loyal customers, have a convivial evening with friends, maybe win a quiz or a raffle, munch on a Pork Pie and at the same time help a charity. You will be made welcome. See you there!

A Police Warning

Police throughout Yorkshire and Staffordshire were recently involved in an operation targeting bogus callers. The operation resulted in the arrest and charge of 7 persons who are currently awaiting trial. The Police wish to remind residents that bogus officials are prevalent throughout the country with teams of both men and women travelling around targeting areas and moving on. Their method is to convince the householder, usually elderly and living alone that they are from a Gas/Water/ Electricity

Company and so gain access to the property on the pretext of there being a problem with the service. They enter the house, leave the door open and while they distract the occupier an accomplice enters through the open door and ransacks the property leaving with cash, jewellery and other valuables.

Residents are reminded to ask for ID before admitting anyone they don't know. If in doubt ask for ID, close the door (with them on the outside) and check with the relevant company. Genuine callers won't mind and bogus callers will disappear very quickly. Try to get a description (clothing will do) and then ring the police and warn neighbours.

Neighbourhood Watch in Rufforth.

Although there are Neighbourhood Watch signs in the village, we are a long way from achieving full cover. The areas presently covered are, Southfield Close, Bradley Land, Milestone Avenue, Gable Park, Church Farm Close and The Avenue, and Middlewood Close. Currently there is an initiative to start a scheme covering a group of houses south and east of the church.

Normally schemes cover between twelve and fifteen houses as this seems to be a manageable number for each co-ordinator. About three years ago a concerted effort was made to increase the number of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the village but the results fell short of our aspirations.

When a group of residents wish to establish a new scheme, the Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team is notified and they provide advice and help to the new co-ordinator. The houses in the scheme are then registered onto the Neighbourhood Watch database which enables occupants to receive a discount on their Buildings and Contents Insurance premiums.

Residents have become complacent because of the low incidents of crime in the village but we should have genuine concerns because the law of averages would suggest that within the transient visitors to the Car Boot sale there will be some undesirable characters.

If any individual or group is wishing to organise a scheme for their area Malcolm Coward (738307) can point you in the right direction or call the police on 669073.

The Parish Council, on behalf of Rufforth residents wishes to thank the coordinators for their efforts to keep the village a safer place.

Ward Grants

The time has come to identify any scheme or project which will improve the Parish and for which funds can be sought from the ward committee. If anyone has any bright ideas please let us know. Alternatively you can make a direct application when the forms appear soon in "Your Ward".

Post Office

The PO continues to be well patronised and a good venue for folk to sample the coffee and biscuits provided by the Methodists whilst spending time catching up with other villagers.

We shall be seeking a ward grant to help with the running costs but next year, as last, we shall need some match funding to make up the total. We are looking for help to organise fund raising events to bring in those funds. If you feel you can do something to support this valuable facility please contact the Clerk or one of the Councillors.

Burial Ground

The "natural" area is now available for burials. Funeral directors are advised and an ad placed in the PARISH NEWS. Details can be found on the Parish Council website www.rufforthwithknapton-pc.org.uk or by contacting the Clerk or Cllr Butterworth.

Communications

Please bear with us until we overcome the problems we are experiencing loading up new documents on our website. Deborah Smitten who put in the hard work to set up the site has offered to help overcome the current gremlins and we hope that by the time of publication we will be up to date again with minutes and agendas and with luck will have the traffic survey results there in full for those who wish to see the detail.

Dog control

Dog fouling continues to be a serious problem in many areas of the parish. Southfield Lane and Hannam Lane are particularly bad and the Playing Fields have experience major problems on their pitches. It is an offence not to clear up after your dog so please do so to avoid others suffering the unpleasant experience of stepping in your deposits.

Please also keep dogs under close control when on the airfield.

Knapton News

A quiet time in Knapton. The Planned extension to the Red Lion is well underway and the Parish Council plans to improve the quality of the grass on the green during the course of the year.

Councillor contact numbers

Tim Haward(Rufforth).....737544
Anne Powell(Knapton).....795059
Martin Comber-Evans(Rufforth)....737917
David Hildreth(Rufforth).....738392
Helen Butterworth(Rufforth).....738592
Roger Lee(Rufforth)..... 738447
Peter Williams(Knapton).....737083
Rob Abbott(Knapton).....337214

StephanieWarden Clerk.....738751

Chairman's Annual Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 12th April 2010

- Thanks to all the Councillors and Clerk for another year of hard work
- Welcome to David Hildreth and Martin Comber Evans and goodbye and thanks to Deborah Smitten.
- Thanks to our Ward Councillors for their support.
- We hope to replace Deborah with the Cooption of Rob Abbott a Knapton resident.

What have we got this year which we didn't have last year?

- A Parish plan with action requirements. Thanks to Jane Wright and team.
- A new and additional notice board in Rufforth.
- A Parish Council website.
- New Village signs on the B1224 thanks to Peter Williams.
- A gated entrance to help calm traffic entering the village from the West.
- A new seat on the triangle.
- A planter/seat in the Burial ground.
- A Natural Burial ground now providing a "green" alternative. Thanks to Helen Butterworth and co.
- Further flower planting and a new Hedgerow in KNAPTON.
- A £200 increase in the Parish Precept to £5850 per annum.
- A team of Archivists sorting out our documents . Thanks to Rae Mould and Martin Comber Evans.
- An exercise to identify and register land belonging to the Parish Council. Thanks to David Hildreth.
- Further Ward Committee grants towards PO running cost, Cemetery improvements,& Knapton.
- An interest in allotments in KNAPTON.

What have we preserved or improved ?

- The Post Office facility in the Methodist Schoolroom. Thanks to the fundraisers and coffee makers.
- A working telephone box.
- A pleasant footpath, resplendent with daffodils, along Southfield Lane
- Cooperation from Yorwaste and CYC in gathering the litter along the B1224
- Scrutiny and comment on 31 planning applications with 7 objections. 3 of which were upheld.

What disappointments?

- Lack of success to reduce traffic speed and volume in both Rufforth and Knapton.
- Major delay in getting CYC to repair or replace the VAS warnings.
- Delay by CYC in progressing the cycleway project from Rufforth to Acomb.
- Failure to obtain "promised" funding to improve our IT capability.
- Failure to get the message over to (some) Dog owners to CLEAN IT UP and control their dogs.
- Slow progress with CYC towards improving the Public Rights of Way around Rufforth.

What about next year?

- Strive to reverse of some of our earlier disappointments.
- Improved communication through the website with increased public participation.
- Continue vigilance of planning applications and enforcement of conditions.
- Provide good service and value for money to all our residents by improving the village environment.